

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on
November 27, 2012 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Service Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

November 27, 2012

Agenda

- I. Q&A with Mayor Cook
- II. Fireworks Use Discussion



I. Q&A With Mayor Cook

Q: How much of the \$900,000 revenue from the new building is from Commercial new builds?

A: Minimal at this time....as Grand Sports Park nears completion the commercial build will increase.

Q: We have so much growth going on now. Is our Council addressing or planning to address the need to keep our infra-structure updated?

A: The City Council has made five updates addressing this very issue. We are looking at and keeping on top of the infra-structure needs.

Q: How soon will roundabouts be built?

A: Development of roundabouts (161st and Oak Ridge Road & 161st and Carey, 156 and Springmill) depends on when sale of utilities goes through. Right now, the sale still needs the approval of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission – a process expected to take six to nine months.

Q: Could Chief Rush give update on rash of home invasions...anyone apprehended?

A: This is usually a problem for Marion County. This year it has spread to surrounding communities. All communities have made arrests. Westfield did apprehend a resident of Silver Lakes on theft, not home invasion. The problem has slowed down.

Mayor also spoke on public safety. He says city statistics for crime and accidents are down. Thanks to our dedicated policeman. The City has not had a traffic fatality in two years. In the near future, look to hear more about the City's participation in the Safe City Initiative. This program is about prevention, promoting the safety of the public.

II. Fireworks Discussion

Councilman Dippel's comments:

- Presently, any day of the week Westfield residents may shoot off fireworks from 9:00 am – 10:00 pm.
- The City cannot restrict trade, i.e. sales of fireworks.
- State law exempts fireworks from noise ordinance.
- City police respond to all calls regarding fireworks complaints. The police cannot do anything about noise, legal hours fireworks are set off, debris in yards because of the present ordinance allowing fireworks 9am-10pm.

WeCan Suggestions:

- Develop an ordinance with restrictions of distance from a home that fireworks can be set off.
- Pick one Friday and Saturday a month to legally allow fireworks.
- Define fireworks....that which explodes and projects upwards.
- Give groups a special permit for use of fireworks for events such as weddings, graduations, church events, neighborhood events.
- Couple loud fireworks with noise ordinance....Can't do because state law exempts fireworks from noise ordinance.

Agreed by WeCan group:

(Total of 19 present, which includes 5 council members and Chief of Police)

- The WeCan group agreed to support the drafted Ordinance 12-28 as stated which prohibits the use of fireworks within the City of Westfield at all times and locations, but with exceptions. Drafted Ordinance 12-28 can be found under the meeting minutes on the WeCAN website.

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, January 29th, at 7pm** at the City Hall Assembly Room.

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov.

For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wecaninformation/>